ABSTRACT

There is described an image processing method of applying optimization processing, for forming an output-referred image on an outputting medium, to the digital image data outputted from an image-capturing apparatus. The method includes the steps of: converting a color space, provided for the image data, to a scene-referred color space by excluding color characteristics, being inherent to the image-capturing apparatus, from the color space; converting a gradation, provided for the image data, to a scene-referred gradation by excluding gradation characteristics, being inherent to the image-capturing apparatus, from the gradation, based on model gradation characteristic information representing the gradation characteristics inherent to the image-capturing apparatus; and optimizing processed image data, provided with the scene-referred color space and the scene-referred gradation so as to generate output-referred image data, which are optimized for reproducing an image on a specific outputting medium.